

# PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

THE SAINT PAUL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Adopted by the Saint Paul City Council August 28, 1996

Approved by the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities as part of the revised Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan February 10, 2000

Readopted by Saint Paul City Council January 9, 2002



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



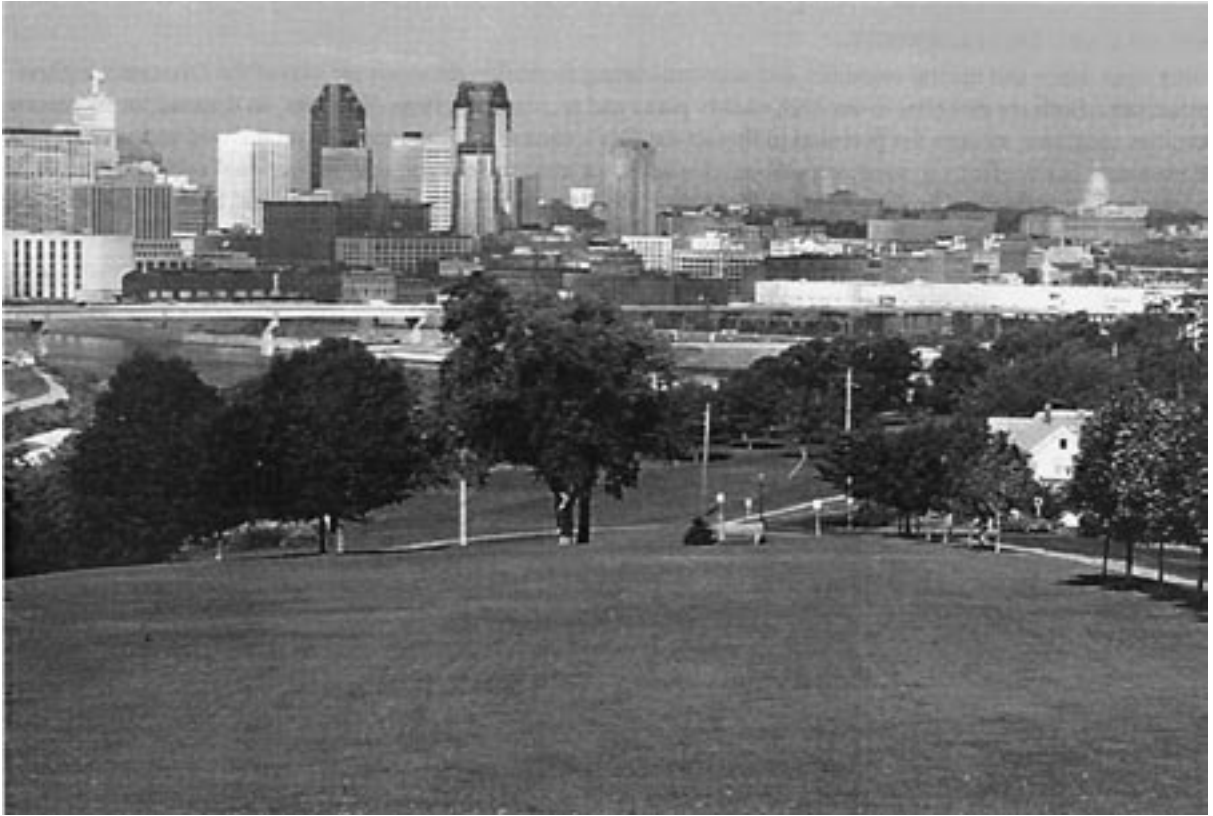
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# Introduction



**Indian Mounds Park**

The Parks and Recreation Plan, a chapter of the City's Comprehensive Plan, is a statement of official city policy to guide park and recreation development, operations, and maintenance activities. The plan provides a comprehensive framework for meeting the needs, challenges, and opportunities confronting the City's parks and recreation system. This is one of several elements that comprise Saint Paul's Comprehensive Plan. While most of the policies in this plan relate specifically to the park and recreation system, they may influence – or be influenced by – policies contained in other comprehensive plan elements.

The new plan was undertaken at the request of the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission, to update the existing plan that was adopted in 1985. In requesting the new plan, the Parks Commission was interested in addressing a broader range of issues than those covered in the 1985 plan which focused on delivery of recreational services in response to significant budget reductions.

In March 1992, the Parks Commission appointed the Park Planning Task Force to work with Park and Recreation Division and Planning Division staff to update the plan. The task force was comprised of representatives from both the Parks Commission and the Planning Commission, as well as citizens with various interests and backgrounds related to parks and recreation. The task force held monthly public meetings to garner public input on issues to be addressed in the new plan.

## Goals

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Through a process of community input, several goals were defined to help guide new park and recreation policy and shape a broad vision of what Saint Paul's park and recreation system can and should strive to be:

**Responsive Park and Recreation Services.** The recreational needs and expectations of Saint Paul residents are widely varied and subject to change. This is due in part to Saint Paul's population becoming more racially and culturally diverse and the increased rate at which recreation trends change. The Parks and Recreation Division must strive to deliver services in a flexible manner which allows timely response to unforeseen needs, trends, and opportunities. The Division must also position itself to effectively anticipate needs, trends and opportunities.

**Safe, Attractive, and Accessible Park and Recreation Facilities.** The City must ensure that park and recreation facilities remain safe, attractive, and accessible through effective design, maintenance, and staffing. It is also important to recognize that safety issues extend beyond park boundaries; access to and from park and recreation facilities must also be safe. The Parks Division, the Police Department and community groups must closely coordinate efforts to keep parks and neighborhoods, safe and attractive, and to ensure all members of our community have access to recreation opportunities.

**Parks which Enhance Neighborhood Stability and Cohesiveness.** Stable and cohesive neighborhoods, long a trademark of Saint Paul, are being threatened by increased poverty, social isolation, racial tensions, and fear for personal safety. The Parks Commission, in their report, *Neighborhoods In Transition*, concluded that recreation centers, and parks in general, can play a vital role in neighborhood stabilization and community building efforts. The City must strive



Mississippi River Boulevard



to strengthen community involvement and build social networks to reinforce parks and recreation centers as focal points of neighborhood interaction, security, and pride.

**Balanced Park Development.** Protecting open space and natural resources and accommodating recreation demands are two of the Division's highest responsibilities. Both are essential to our high quality parks and recreation system. However, as demand for recreation opportunities increases, so does the potential to impact the City's natural environment. To protect and preserve significant natural resources in our efforts to meet recreational demands, we must understand how recreational uses and park development affect the natural environment and determine how human activity and access should be managed to achieve and maintain a balanced system.

## Assumptions

This plan is based on several assumptions about our future challenges:

**Increasingly Diverse Population, Needs, and Demands.** The City's changing and increasingly diverse population presents significant challenges regarding demand and delivery of recreation opportunities. There is growing demand for recreation opportunities to accommodate all ages and genders. Our increasing ethnicity provides opportunities to expand cultural awareness, but also presents a challenge to overcome language and racial barriers. The population generally has become more health conscious and environmentally aware, which has led to an increased interest in recreation for exercise and recreation opportunities that allow interaction with the natural environment. This diversity of interests and demands reflects a significant broadening of the traditional scope of recreation provided in past decades which concentrated on boys athletics. The city's population is expected to become increasingly diverse. Likewise, demand for recreation will likely increase and diversify. To respond, the Parks and Recreation Division will need to become more inclusive and continually assess who they are serving, what their needs are, and how best to meet their needs.

**Higher Expectations of Public Service.** Many adults today grew up with programmed recreation and continue to expect services for themselves and their children. With more discretionary time and resources to spend on leisure activities and an expanded spectrum of recreation opportunities, demand for recreation has grown. At the same time, hectic schedules, family obligations, and travel costs have resulted in demand for more flexible and convenient recreation opportunities. Faced with limited resources, our response to demands must be based on a careful assessment and prioritization of the broader needs of all city residents. We must continue to seek opportunities to become more flexible through coordination and partnerships within the Division, with other City departments and with other recreation providers.



Senior aerobics at recreation center



Como Pool rain tree

**Limited Physical Expansion of the Park and Recreation System.**

Historical development patterns have resulted in the existing—somewhat uneven—distribution of park and recreation facilities. However, limited City funds and limited available land restrict our ability to develop new park and recreation facilities. Faced with limited resources, the City may not be able to meet all demands for additional facilities and/or services. To that extent, it will become increasingly important for the Division to explore non-traditional approaches and engage in partnerships with other organizations to ensure that all recreational resources within the city, whether public or private, are efficiently and effectively utilized and park and recreation opportunities are readily accessible to all Saint Paul residents.

**Budget Limitations and Potential Reductions.** Funding for parks and recreation has decreased at regional, state, and federal levels over the past decade. While local funding has remained relatively constant, increased public demand for new facilities, services, and replacement or rehabilitation of aging facilities have contributed to increased funding demands. Maintenance and operating costs have also increased due to construction of larger buildings, deterioration of aging buildings, use of outdated vehicles and equipment, and acquisition of more parkland. While the City has been consistently responsive to demands for new facilities, funding to ensure that facilities are fully utilized and properly maintained has often fallen short. The City has a substantial investment in its park and recreation system and must recognize its responsibility to maintain and enhance the system for present and future use. The availability of resources to operate and maintain the park and recreation system will continue to be subject to economic fluctuations and budget cutbacks. To ensure the high quality of our park and recreation facilities and services we must acknowledge their value and make a commitment to sustain them.



# Major Strategies

*The Plan proposes three strategies to guide future development, operations and maintenance of the Saint Paul parks and recreation system:*

## **Shaping City Character**

This strategy recognizes that parks, parkways, and natural and historic features lend form, character, and identity which enhance the city and its neighborhoods. It also recognizes that the existing system of parks, parkways, and natural and historic resources provides a strong framework to build on. The policies in this strategy focus on preservation, maintenance and development of the park and recreation system and the city's natural and historic resources.

## **Building Community**

This strategy recognizes that parks and recreation facilities function as neighborhood focal points, not just physically and aesthetically, but also as the center of community activity and life. Policies in this strategy focus on strengthening the role of parks and recreation facilities by making sure they are safe, accessible, and responsive to community needs, and by providing opportunities to bring people together, foster community involvement, and build a community support system.



Irvine Park

## **Innovative Focusing of Resources**

This strategy recognizes that budgets are limited and resources must be carefully managed to improve efficiency and effectiveness. It also recognizes the need to explore ways to stretch existing resources, identify new resources, and build partnerships. Policies in this strategy focus on setting priorities, and improving utilization and management of resources.

## *Strategy: Shaping City Character*

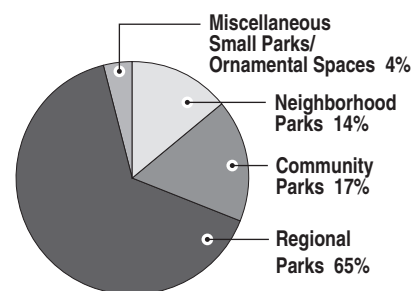
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**T**he Mississippi River. Steep wooded bluffs and ravines. Tree lined streets and parkways. Como. Phalen. Highland. Indian Mounds. Cherokee. Battle Creek. All conjure images of Saint Paul and its neighborhoods. We identify with these images—people, places, events, experiences. These images reflect positively on the quality of life we enjoy—and expect—in Saint Paul. The existing network of parks and parkways in Saint Paul provides a strong foundation to build on, and opportunities to enhance the system must be continually pursued. The Parks and Recreation Division must continue to explore ways to enhance and preserve the City’s natural and historic environment and provide opportunities for people to become more aware of the natural and historic environment. The Division must seek out opportunities to make connections and fill gaps in our park and open space system—to ensure park facilities are readily accessible throughout the city. And the Division must ensure that parks fulfill their potential to enhance their surroundings, and the entire city.

### **Findings:**

1. The existing park system contains approximately 4000 acres of parkland, 37 miles of parkways, and 134 buildings. A breakdown of parkland by park type reveals that 65 percent of our parkland is devoted to regional parks, 17 percent community parks, 14 percent neighborhood parks, and 3.5 percent miscellaneous small parks and ornamental spaces. Overall, Saint Paul contributes 26 percent to the total acreage of parkland in Ramsey County.

**Parkland by Type**



2. Approximately 11 percent of the total land area of Saint Paul is designated parkland. With the city becoming more fully developed, parkland and open space have become more valuable resources.
3. Between 1970 and 1987 the amount of public parkland increased by almost 24 percent, an addition of 746.9 acres. Much of this land consists of parcels that remained undeveloped because they were difficult or unprofitable to develop. Given limited resources, it is unlikely that the City will acquire large amounts of parkland in the foreseeable future. However, opportunities for acquisition such as abandoned railroad lines and tax-forfeiture properties will continue to be explored.
4. Saint Paul’s park system is over 100 years old. While many park facilities (buildings, playgrounds, fields, etc.) have been replaced or rehabilitated through the years, several remain in need of rehabilitation or replacement. The City has a considerable investment in existing park facilities and timely maintenance is essential to ensure that they are utilized to their full potential.
5. The distribution of existing parkland is somewhat uneven due to historical development patterns. Likewise, existing development limits opportunities to

acquire vacant parcels of sufficient size to create new parks and open space, particularly in dense, older sections of the city where the need for more open space is greatest.

- 6.** Saint Paul's network of parks and parkways are the outcome of efforts through the years to develop a system of connected parks within the city, including links to the Minneapolis park system. This system provides a strong foundation for further development of our recreational trail system.
- 7.** Local, regional, and state surveys indicate that the popularity of trails and environmentally-oriented activities, such as nature hikes and environmental education, have steadily increased over the past decade.
- 8.** The Mississippi River contributes 29 miles of riverfront shoreline to Saint Paul. This represents the longest stretch of riverfront of any municipality in the metropolitan area and is one of the City's most significant amenities and resources. Considerable amounts of shoreline consist of public parkland providing opportunities for river access. There are also 57 miles of bluff edges within the city, 30 of which are directly along the river. Looking at the larger Mississippi River Valley, fully one-third of the city, or approximately 18 square miles, is located within the Mississippi River Valley.
- 9.** Saint Paul's park system contains many resources that strengthen our environmental education and interpretive potential. Most notably, the close proximity of Como Zoo and Conservatory offers a unique opportunity to provide a combined botany and zoology program. Other areas containing significant environmental educational resources include: Lilydale, Crosby Farm, Swede Hollow, and Indian Mounds parks.
- 10.** Saint Paul's park system includes structures and landscape features that are historically valuable. Their preservation is important to the continued vitality of the city.
- 11.** In addition, Saint Paul residents benefit from the use of recreational and open space managed by other entities. These include Ramsey County parks, Water Utility open space, Department of Public Works ponding and drainage areas, and private recreation lands.

## POLICY 1





Crosby Park

### **Objective 1: Encourage protection, preservation, and regeneration of the city's open space, natural, and historic resources.**

Saint Paul's open space, natural, and historic resources provide many benefits. Undeveloped "natural" areas help shape and soften the built environment, provide habitat for plants and wildlife, and improve the overall environmental quality of the city. However, the amount of open space in the city is limited and vulnerable to increasing development pressures and degradation. While much of our remaining open space is in public ownership, park designation does not necessarily protect it. The Division is continuously confronted with demands to expand recreational opportunities and increase access to developed and undeveloped parkland. Consequently, the city's open space, natural, and historic resources may become vulnerable to unwarranted use and degradation. A conscious and concerted effort must be taken to ensure their protection and preservation for enjoyment by future generations. Because ecological systems are not confined to the City's boundaries, protection and preservation efforts must be coordinated on a regional level.

#### **Policies:**

- 1.** Manage the City's park and recreation system to ensure:
  - a.** Preservation and restoration of natural resources;
  - b.** Management of all parkland and open space in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner; and
  - c.** Opportunities for all citizens to enjoy, appreciate, and understand the city's natural areas.
- 2.** Provide leadership and coordination with federal, state, regional and local authorities to:
  - a.** Complete and maintain an inventory of natural and historic resources, including site analysis and evaluation of integrity and significance;
  - b.** Develop management and protection strategies for endangered species and/or sensitive habitats and historically important structures and features;
  - c.** Provide adequate and consistent enforcement of regulations to protect water quality, wetlands, native habitats, and the river corridor;
  - d.** Open a cleaner and more friendly river to swimmers and other recreational users; and
  - e.** Pursue the possibility of restoring or reconstructing wetlands within park and open space areas.
- 3.** Pursue opportunities and partnerships to acquire land specifically for open space and natural resource protection according to any of the following criteria:
  - a.** Areas containing species included on the State or Federal list of endangered or threatened species;
  - b.** Areas representing significant landforms, native plant communities, or sensitive habitat;
  - c.** Areas that connect existing components of the open space network; and
  - d.** Areas adjacent to existing parkland/open space.
- 4.** Support and strengthen citywide tree preservation and reforestation efforts.
- 5.** Take advantage of opportunities that arise from redevelopment activities to add to or enhance the city's open space and natural resources. Priority will be given to opportunities that do not add publicly-owned and developed parkland that will require additional public maintenance or operating expenses.



6. Work with Ramsey County and others to ensure the highest possible water quality in the city's lakes and streams.
7. Explore use of the following techniques, where practical, to preserve the City's natural resources:
  - a. Use of native species in plantings;
  - b. Use of natural border grasses and plantings along shorelines;
  - c. Control of chemical runoff into ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers; and
  - d. Avoidance of "flat mow" grooming in park areas where a more natural look is appropriate.



Mississippi River Boulevard scenic overlook

## **Objective 2: Expand physical and visual access to the River.**

The Mississippi River is Saint Paul's foremost natural, historical, and recreational resource. As evidence of that, the entire length of the river in Saint Paul is included in the federally-designated Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (see map, p.41). People enjoy the river's picturesque quality and the broad vistas it affords. People want to interact with it directly—to touch it, to explore its banks and currents. While visual access to the river is generally good from public parks and bluff top vantage points, physical access to the river is more limited, particularly in the downtown area, but also in several neighborhoods where two or three-block gaps keep people from getting to the river. Increasing downtown riverfront access has been consistently identified as a priority in the City's extensive planning efforts for riverfront redevelopment and should continue to be pursued. Opportunities for connecting the city's neighborhoods to the river valley should also be explored.

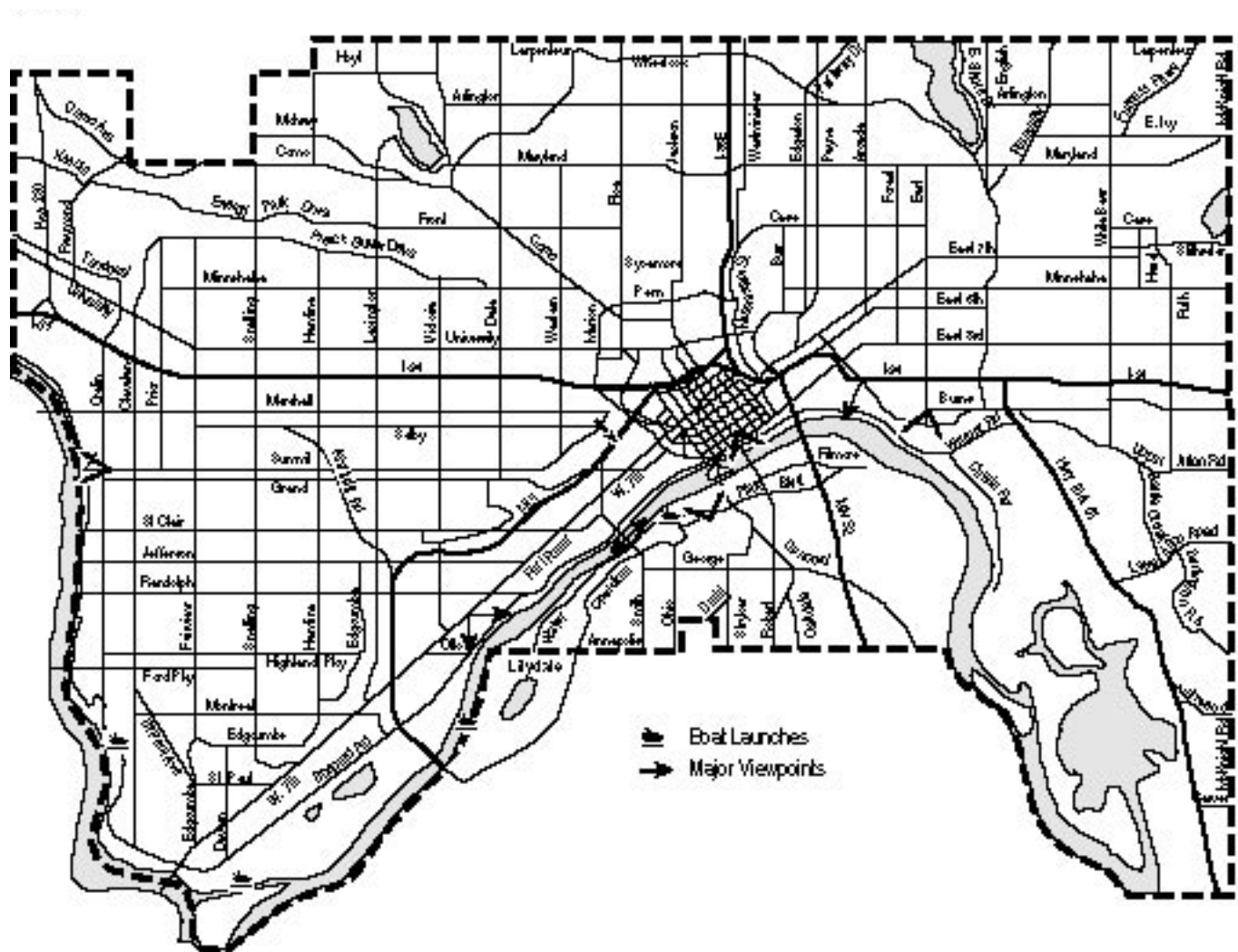
### **Policies:**

8. Pursue opportunities to provide public access to the riverfront in a manner that is aesthetically compatible with the riverfront and protects environmentally sensitive areas.
9. Encourage riverfront development that is environmentally compatible with its history and unique location and fosters a park-like riverfront character, including but not limited to opening the riverfront to more personal recreation activities like swimming, fishing, and canoeing.



## Major River Access Points And Views

### POLICY 10



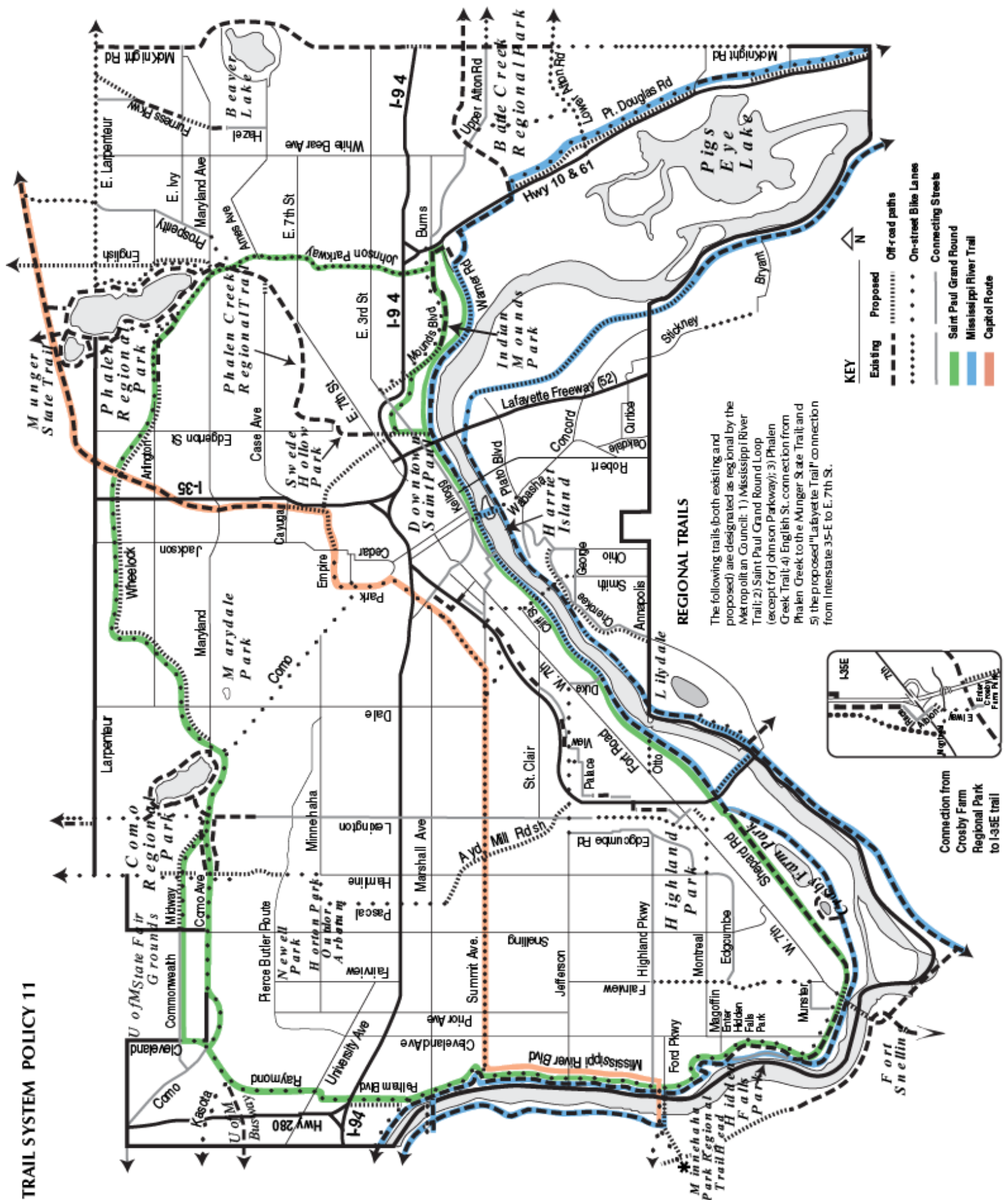
- 10.** Strengthen downtown and neighborhood connections to the River through:
  - a.** Completion of riverfront projects which improve access to the River (see Obj. 4, policy 14);
  - b.** Preservation and enhancement of significant river and downtown skyline views for the public wherever possible; and (Map, p.11)
  - c.** Limitations on building heights and setback encroachment in areas that would obstruct public access and views to the River.

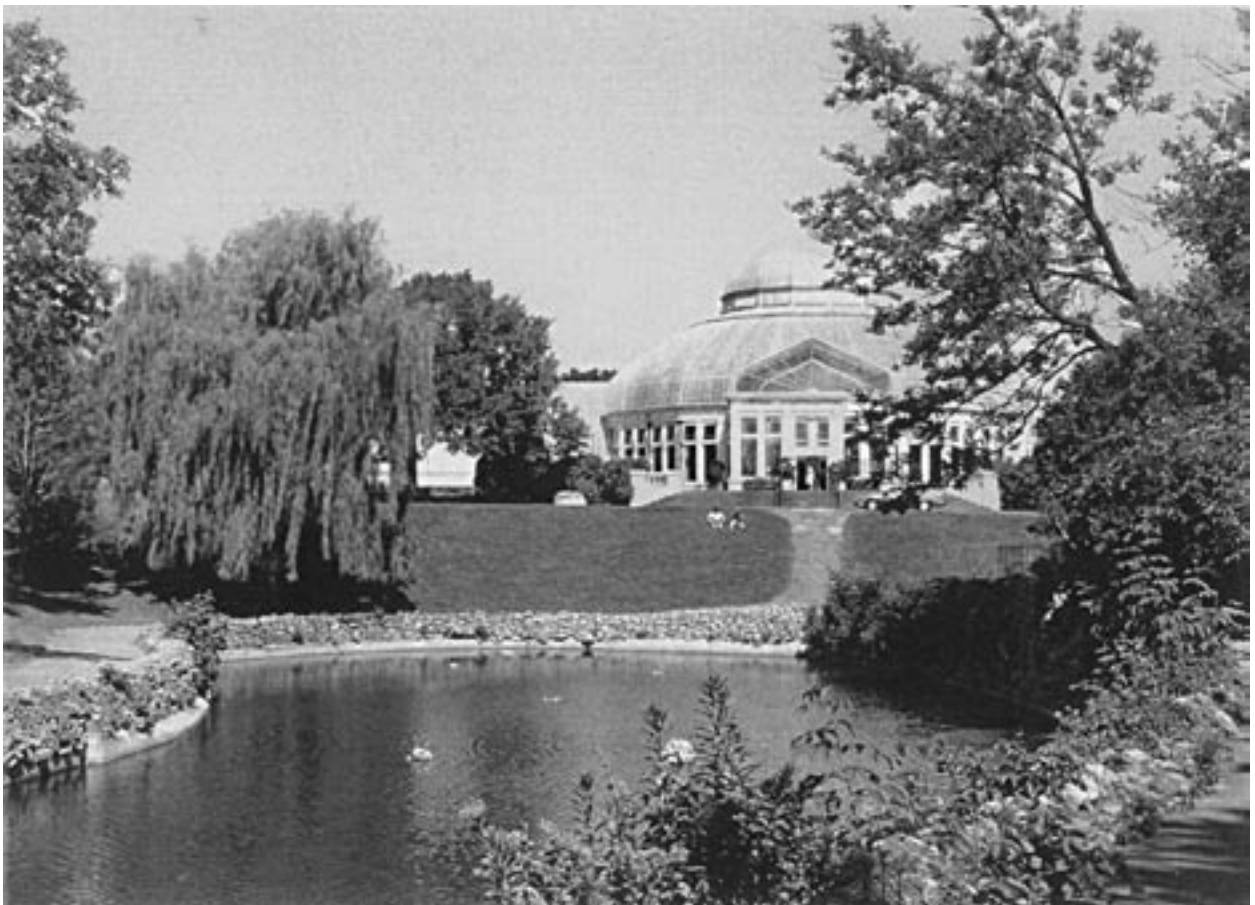
### **Objective 3: Develop park and open space connections.**

Park and open space connections provide the means for moving between parks, moving within parks, and getting to parks, in a safe, convenient, and enjoyable manner. While connections usually take the form of trails, linear parks or parkways, sidewalks and streets providing access to parks through neighborhoods, are also important connections. As such, it is essential to coordinate and integrate our trails and parkways with the City's network of sidewalks and streets to provide continuous, convenient, and safe access to, between, and within, parks.

#### **Policies:**

- 11.** Pursue opportunities to expand the City's recreational trail system and give priority to development of trails which:
  - a.** Provide connections between and within the City's parks, trails in adjacent municipalities, and the Regional trail system;
  - b.** Coordinate with the network of on-street bicycle lanes and public sidewalks;
  - c.** Utilize existing parkways and/or public owned property;
  - d.** Complete the principal recreational trail systems in Saint Paul, including the Saint Paul Grand Round Loop, Mississippi River Trails, Capitol Route, and the Phalen Creek Trail (see map, p. 13); and
  - e.** Provide a north-south bicycle-pedestrian connection (all parkways and boulevards and potential main corridors such as Ayd Mill Road should accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic, i.e. Lexington Parkway and Ayd Mill Roadway).
- 12.** Provide recreational trails that:
  - a.** Meet or exceed accepted standards for safety, security, durability, maintenance and accessibility as defined by AASHTO (American Assoc. of State Highway and Transportation Officials);
  - b.** Meet user needs for support facilities such as lighting, drinking water, restrooms, bike racks, signage;
  - c.** Respect and enhance the natural environment; and
  - d.** Minimize impacts on surrounding neighborhoods.
- 13.** Continue to enhance the City's parkway system through:
  - a.** Appropriate design and landscaping;
  - b.** Limitations on uses within and adjacent to parkways to ensure compatibility and preserve aesthetic character;
  - c.** Limitations on traffic speed and vehicle access;
  - d.** Provision of separate paths for pedestrians and bicyclists; and
  - e.** Provision of on-street bike lanes.





Como Park Conservatory



#### **Objective 4: Fulfill park development priorities.**

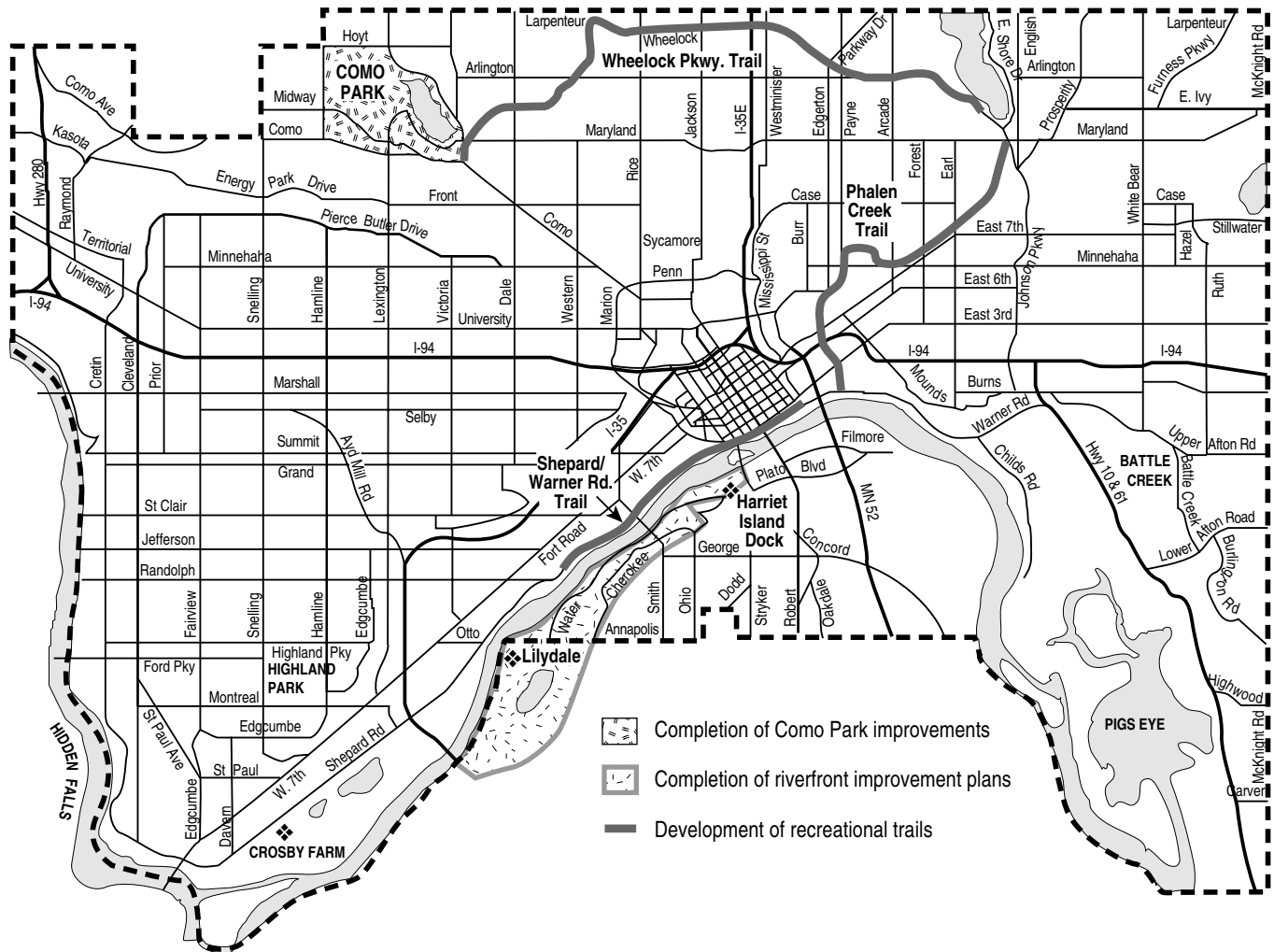
The park system is continually being developed, redeveloped, and rehabilitated. Many projects are necessary to ensure that people have adequate access to quality park and recreational opportunities. Others are necessary to modernize park facilities and ensure that they meet current codes. Park development priorities change through the years as environmental and recreational demands and needs change and the Division must continue to explore opportunities to meet these needs. However, there are some projects that currently stand out because of their magnitude and potential impact on the entire city and region. To realize these projects, they must become the primary focus of park development efforts and resources in the coming years.

#### **Policies:**

- 14.** In the Regional Parks and Open Space System, the City will give priority to all of the following (map, p. 16):
  - a.** Completion of renovation and improvement of Como Park, Como Zoo, and Como Conservatory;
  - b.** Completion of plans to improve the riverfront (see Objective 2, policy 10); and
  - c.** Development of recreational trails (see Objective 3).
- 15.** In the Local Parks and Recreation System the City will give priority to all of the following (map, p. 17):
  - a.** Completion of Community Recreation Centers (North Dale and Battle Creek);
  - b.** Focus on upgrading identified *Neighborhoods in Transition* centers;
  - c.** Provision of facilities to accommodate emerging sports and other activities;
  - d.** Redevelopment of Highland Park;
  - e.** Improvement of facilities that support opportunities for coordination and partnership;
  - f.** Upgrading of Swede Hollow Park;
  - g.** Review of existing demographic and economic data for possible changes to identified Neighborhoods in Transition centers; and
  - h.** Coordinate with Public Works, the state Department of Natural Resources, and the Ramsey-Washington Watershed District in the Phalen/Ames Lake wetland restoration project.
- 16.** Pursue opportunities and joint use partnerships to acquire or provide access to land for parks, open space, or recreation development according to the following criteria:
  - a.** Priority will be given to areas that are under-served due to distance to existing parks, population density, or inadequate size and condition of existing nearby park(s);
  - b.** Land parcels must be of adequate size to accommodate proposed development;
  - c.** Availability and commitment of resources, public and/or private, to develop, operate, and maintain new park facilities;
  - d.** Gifts of suitable land will be accepted when resources, public and/or private, are identified to maintain the property; and
  - e.** Conformity with other applicable public policy.

# REGIONAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PRIORITIES

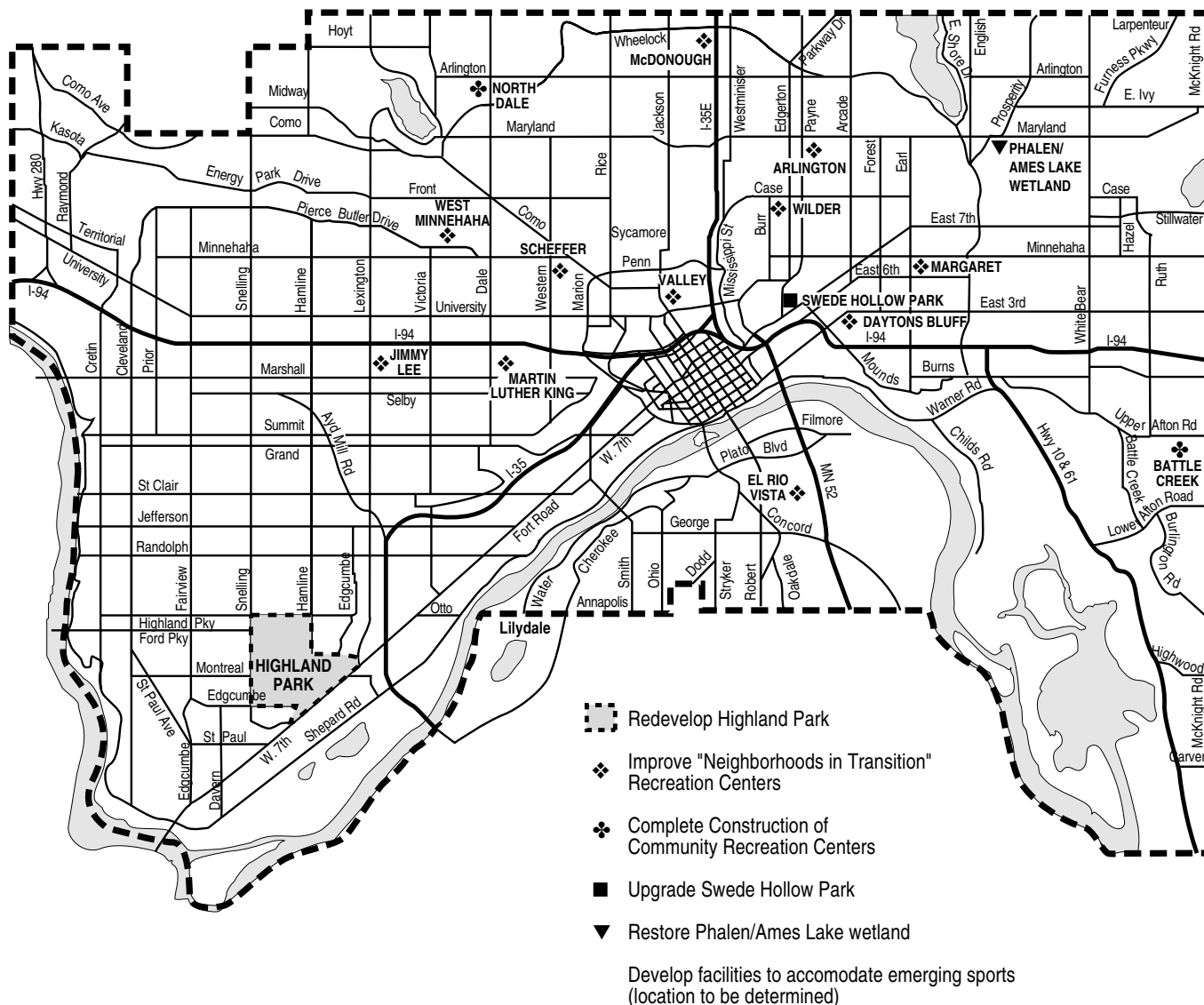
## POLICY 14





# LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM PRIORITIES

## POLICY 15



## **Objective 5: Enhance the City and its neighborhoods.**

Parks and recreation facilities enhance the quality of the City and its neighborhoods. They function as the public's "backyard," giving residents places to play, socialize, and relax. Attractive, well-maintained park and recreation facilities become focal points of neighborhood pride and identity. In some cases, parks can



Harriet Bishop tot lot  
at Harriet Island

pose concerns for adjacent property owners. Some activities that occur in parks can create noise, traffic, and other problems for adjacent property owners, thereby diminishing appreciation of a park as a neighborhood asset. In addition, the value of parks as neighborhood amenities is directly related to how safe they are perceived to be and how attractive they appear. However, neighborhood concerns about perceived negative impacts, such as when a recreational trail is proposed adjacent to private property, need to be balanced by the recreational needs of the city and region. The City must continue to work to foster appropriate design, maintenance, and community involvement to ensure parks enhance neighborhoods as well as serve the broader public's recreational needs.

### **Policies:**

- 17.** Provide site and facility design, rehabilitation, and retro-fitting that:
  - a.** Meets or exceeds accepted standards for safety, security, durability, maintenance and accessibility;
  - b.** Meets user needs for support facilities such as circulation and parking, lighting, drinking water, restrooms, and signage;
  - c.** Respects the natural and historic environment;
  - d.** Respects neighborhood identity; and
  - e.** Minimizes impacts on surrounding neighborhoods.
- 18.** Provide resources to support site and facility maintenance that:
  - a.** Is appropriate to the size and use of the facility;
  - b.** Enhances visibility and attractiveness; and
  - c.** Maximizes safety and security.
- 19.** Provide resources to ensure timely repair, maintenance, and/or replacement of park facilities to minimize accidents and safety hazards and improve appearance.
- 20.** Involve neighborhood residents, park users, and community groups in planning, development, programming, and maintenance of parks (see Objective 10, policy 42).

## **Objective 6: Foster the economic development potential of the City's park and recreation system.**

The Saint Paul park and recreation system plays a key role in making the city a great place to live, work, and visit. Parks enhance the physical appearance of the city and contribute to increased property values. Parks provide unique facilities and host a variety of recreational and cultural events that attract people to Saint Paul—to visit, to do business, and to live. In addition, recreation programs and activities help build life-long skills and behavior that foster work readiness and general human development.

**Policies:**

- 21.** Pursue opportunities to work in partnership with other public and private organizations to program and host public special events.
- 22.** Provide adequate resources for programming and staffing of facilities and events that draw visitors and promote tourism.
- 23.** Encourage programming of downtown and riverfront parks for cultural festivals and other public events.
- 24.** Pursue public/private partnerships to develop mutually beneficial service packages and joint promotional programs.
- 25.** Provide structured recreation activities and community education opportunities that build life-long and work readiness skills.
- 26.** Pursue opportunities to provide family-oriented facilities and attractions that encourage families to spend their leisure time in Saint Paul.
- 27.** Pursue public/private partnerships in regional parks that financially support the adequate maintenance of parks facilities and programming, as long as access to Saint Paul regional parks (including Como Zoo and Conservatory) remains free for all.



Outdoor concert,  
Harriet Island



Music Under Glass,  
Como Conservatory



"Sparky" show, Como Park

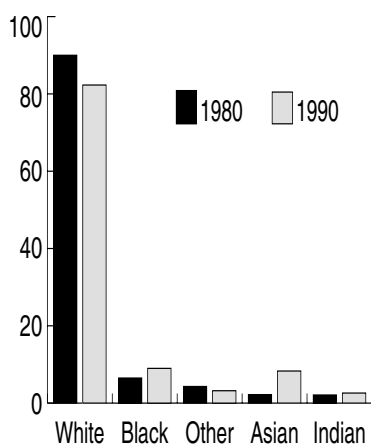


El Rio Vista building addition ground breaking

## Strategy: **Building Community**

**O**ur neighborhoods have experienced changes over the past few decades which affect our sense of belonging and connection. People need places where they can go to interact with other members of their community. Places where they feel familiar, comfortable, and safe. Parks, and particularly recreation centers, play a vital role in bringing neighborhoods together. To ensure that parks continue to contribute positively to our community, their role must be expanded and strengthened and barriers to participation must be overcome. Parks and recreation centers must be safe, and equally important, people must be able to get to parks safely. Increased efforts are needed to expand outreach, awareness, and understanding of people with different cultural backgrounds, and people of all age groups. Building on a strong tradition of citizen participation, continuing opportunities must be provided to foster effective citizen involvement in park operations, development and maintenance.

Percent of population by race  
Source: 1990 U.S. Census

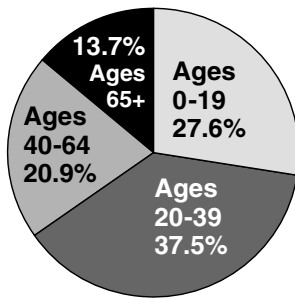


### Findings:

1. Several trends characterize Saint Paul's population, which in turn, have an impact on the delivery of park and recreation services. These include:
  - a. Saint Paul's population is becoming more diverse — racially and ethnically. Between 1980 and 1990 the City's minority population increased by almost 80 percent; increasing from 10 percent in 1980 to 18 percent in 1990. The largest increase occurred in the Asian population, whose share increased by 6.1 percent. In addition, 58 percent of school aged children currently in the city are non-white;
  - b. While the senior population has remained fairly constant for the past several decades, the number of 30-39 year olds is at the highest level since 1940. As a result, our senior population will likely increase over the next 30 to 40 years;



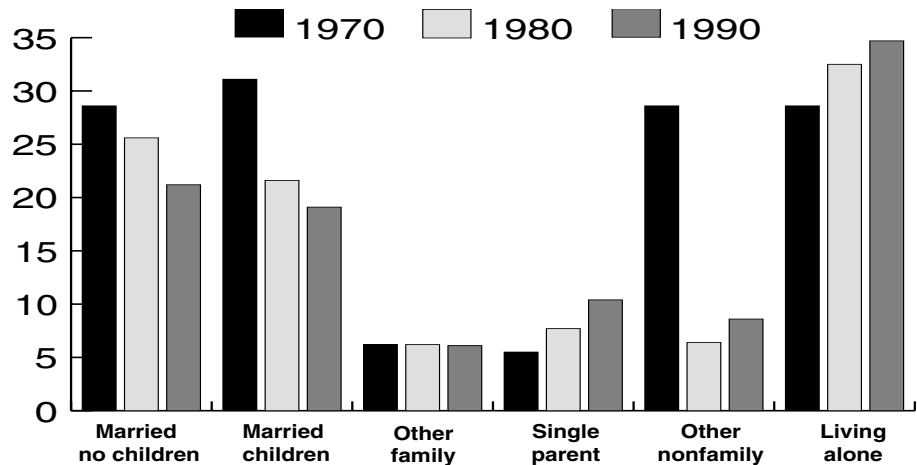
Percent of age group  
by population  
Source: 1990 U.S. Census



**c.** While the current adolescent population (10-19) is at a 90 year low, the number of children under 10 has increased and will likely lead to a larger teenage population in the next decade; and

**d.** The average household size in Saint Paul continues to decrease. The number of non-family households (single individuals or non-related persons living together) make up 43 percent of all households. In addition, 29 percent of all households with children are headed by a single woman.

Households by Type  
Source: 1990 U.S. Census



2. Changing demographics and other social and economic factors have resulted in an increase in demand for social service oriented programs at recreation centers.
3. The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission's 1992 report "A Strategy for Neighborhoods in Transition" concludes that recreation centers should play a vital role in neighborhood stabilization and community building efforts.
4. The City continues to classify its 42 recreation centers according to the three-tier system of: community recreation centers, neighborhood recreation centers, and part-time recreation centers. However, alternative staffing models are being explored, such as the "neighborhood service delivery team," which would better match available recreation center staff and community education staff to differing community needs and program size.
5. Awareness and concern about crime in the city has increased. Particularly troubling is the increased involvement of youth and the increasing randomness of crime. While these trends present a challenge to the entire city, they present a specific need for secure and safe parks and access to park facilities.
6. Perceptions of crime and fear of crime affect decisions people make about whether to use park facilities and how to get to parks safely.
7. The majority of problems in Saint Paul parks involve drinking, vandalism, vehicle break-ins, and loitering. The number of reported crime incidents in parks has increased over the past few years, in part due to improved reporting and record keeping.

## **Objective 7: Encourage enforcement and operational efforts which promote safe and secure access to and use of parks.**

Increasing crime rates present a challenge to the entire city, including its parks. While Saint Paul parks remain relatively safe, the number of reported crime incidents has increased over the past few years. These trends have an impact on users perceived degree of safety and therefore the use of park facilities. It is also important to recognize that safety concerns extend beyond park boundaries and need to be addressed within the context of the surrounding neighborhood.

### **Policies:**

- 28.** Provide adequate staffing of park facilities to maximize safety and security.
- 29.** Provide continuing support for park security programs and safety responsiveness and awareness programs.
- 30.** Foster effective communication and coordination between Division staff, park security, police officers, and neighborhood groups to improve awareness and responsiveness to park and neighborhood safety and security issues.



Night Moves at Humboldt

## **Objective 8: Provide recreation facilities and programming that contributes to stable neighborhoods.**

Concern about accelerated change and instability within Saint Paul's neighborhoods inspired the Park and Recreation Commission's study "A Strategy for Neighborhoods in Transition." One conclusion of that study was that recreation centers are the only public, neighborhood-based service providers that are readily accessible and belong to all members of the community. By strengthening and expanding the traditional role of recreation centers, particularly at the identified Neighborhoods in Transition centers, they will become neighborhood focal points and key components of the neighborhood network.

### **Policies:**

- 31.** Provide recreation programming that helps build a sense of community through:
  - a.** Responsiveness to the diverse needs and desires of residents;
  - b.** Enhancement and celebration of neighborhood identity;
  - c.** Improved outreach to all residents, including those not currently using recreation services; and
  - d.** Keeping recreation centers open 7 days a week as need and available resources permit.
- 32.** Consider providing facilities or programming for alternative, emerging recreation trends, particularly those that meet the recreational needs of youth.
- 33.** Support use of recreation centers to host functions and events sponsored by community organizations, service providers and neighborhood residents.
- 34.** Encourage cooperative facility arrangements and joint use agreements with other service providers that contribute to improved service and access for the public.



## **Objective 9: Identify and remove barriers to participation.**

There are many types of barriers that discourage residents from using park services and facilities. Physical barriers such as busy streets, the river, rail road tracks, and stairs can hinder access to park facilities. Social barriers such as racial or age prejudice, language differences, and insensitivity toward people with disabilities may result in certain groups of people being excluded from use of some park services, or being unaware of services offered. Economic barriers such as fees or equipment charges may result in participation costs that are too high for some members of our community. Program limitations and time constraints may also present barriers to participation. Overcoming these barriers is necessary to ensure park and recreation opportunities are available to all segments of our population.

### **Policies:**

- 35.** Provide for timely implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- 36.** Maintain public access to parks and recreation facilities, services, and programs through:
  - a.** Establishment of a fee policy and review process that ensures fees and equipment charges do not create barriers to participation;
  - b.** Encourage the MCTO and other transit providers to improve coordination, convenience, and affordability of transit access to parks and recreation programs and facilities;
  - c.** Work with Public Works, the Police, district councils, schools and others to identify and promote “safe routes” to park facilities (see Objective 3, policy 8); and
  - d.** Provide directional signage for parks.
- 37.** Provide for safe accommodation of pedestrians and bicyclists on all bridges.
- 38.** Ensure development adjacent to parks does not in any way create a barrier to public access, use, or enjoyment of a park facility.
- 39.** Ensure staff are prepared to work with a diverse public through:
  - a.** Recruitment and training of staff and volunteers who are sensitive to the city's park users, including ethnic and language barriers; and
  - b.** Recruitment and retention of people of color for staff and volunteer positions.
- 40.** Improve outreach efforts by fostering:
  - a.** Strategic targeting of promotional efforts;
  - b.** Continuous, on-going public information programs;
  - c.** Effective joint promotional efforts; and
  - d.** Effective distribution of public information materials.
- 41.** Provide recreation programs and services at times convenient to the community.



**Soccer at McDonough  
Recreation Center**

**Objective 10: Foster opportunities for on-going community and citizen involvement and feedback.**

Involving citizens in decisions regarding park planning, development, operations, and maintenance gives them a sense of ownership, responsibility, and control. Residents play an important role in helping staff identify park and recreation needs specific to their neighborhood. In 1990 the City took a significant step in providing a forum for citizen involvement in the planning, management, operations, and development of the park and recreation system by establishing the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission. Continuing support for citizen participation must be provided to ensure that involvement is meaningful and effective and has a clear impact on the quality of park and recreation services.

**Policies:**

- 42.** Involve all constituents (residents, park users, interest groups) in setting balanced priorities for planning, development, programming, maintenance, use of facilities, physical enhancement or development of facilities and/or open spaces, and other park related matters.



Japanese dancers at Town Square Park

**Objective 11: Promote cultural awareness**

Saint Paul possesses a rich cultural heritage and broad spectrum of arts, historical, and ethnic resources. These resources include the park system itself, and its historic structures and features. Parks can enhance awareness and access to these resources through cultural events and interpretive programs. It is also important to recognize that while increased ethnic and racial diversity has added to the richness of Saint Paul it also presents new challenges. Language barriers, cultural ignorance and insensitivity can lead to misunderstandings, conflicts, and—in the worst case—exclusion and alienation. Increasing cultural sensitivity can help eliminate cultural barriers while allowing us to draw upon the benefits and rewards of our diverse culture.

**Policies:**

- 43.** Expand cross-cultural programming and interpretive opportunities.
- 44.** Provide programs that are familiar and attractive to under-served populations.
- 45.** Proactively recruit and retain people of color and bilingual people for staff and volunteer positions. (see Objective 9, policy 39).
- 46.** Encourage use of park facilities to host public cultural and historic events.

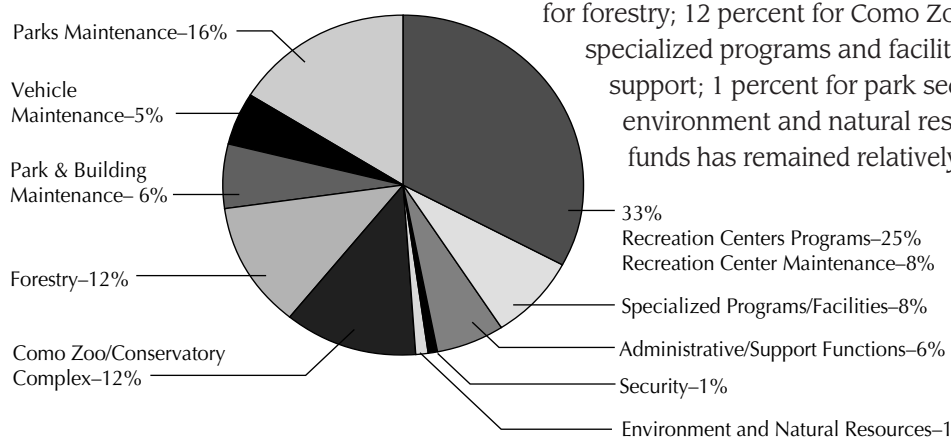
## Strategy: Innovative Focusing of Resources

**S**hrinking budgets and increased demands frame our future challenge. The Parks and Recreation Division can begin to address this challenge by setting clear priorities—but it must also maintain flexibility to respond to unforeseen opportunities and needs. It is essential to work “smarter”—to gain a better understanding of who we serve and what their needs and desires are. The Division must tap the potential of its existing resources and be willing to explore new and alternative ways of doing things. The ability to continue to deliver high quality park and recreation services depends on the ability to use City resources in an efficient, effective, and innovative manner.

### Findings:

1. The Division's level of responsibility has increased over the past few decades due to a more diverse service population, a 24 percent increase in total parkland, and demand for new, larger, and more sophisticated recreation centers. However, the budget (including staff levels) has remained relatively flat. As a result, the Division's actual “buying power” has decreased.
2. Over the past decade there has been an increase in the number of federal, state, and local government regulations to ensure that facilities and equipment are structurally sound, accessible, and environmentally safe. Compliance with these requirements has contributed to significantly increased maintenance costs.
3. It is not possible to meet all recreational demands within the existing budget. Existing budget trends maintain the status quo dollar level but do not provide for expansion or creation of additional programs. It will be necessary to say “no” to some requests for additional services or to eliminate some existing services to accommodate new demands.
4. Over the past decade the amount of general revenue funds available for parks and recreation has varied significantly, with funds generally declining since the mid-1980s. To counteract this downturn, the Division has attempted to increase the amount of the overall budget covered by special funds derived from fees, leases, and rentals. Other supplemental revenue sources currently used include: grants, donations, and cost sharing through partnerships.
5. The largest portion of the Division's general fund budget (33 percent) supports programming and maintenance at recreation centers. This is followed by 27 percent for general park, vehicle, and building maintenance; 12 percent for forestry; 12 percent for Como Zoo and Conservatory; 8 percent for specialized programs and facilities; 6 percent for administration/support; 1 percent for park security/rangers; and 1 percent for environment and natural resources. This distribution of general funds has remained relatively constant over the past several years.

**1996 Parks and Recreation  
General Fund Budget  
\$18,166,000**



6. The Division is currently involved in partnerships with over 200 organizations representing private, public, and non-profit sectors as well as most public and private schools and colleges. Partnerships serve a variety of functions: preventing duplication, sharing facilities, providing services the City cannot, and offering specialized expertise.
7. There is an increasing number of organizations offering recreational services. While public agencies have traditionally provided the bulk of general recreation services, the private sector is playing a larger role in responding to increased demand for recreation. Private, non-profit organizations provide services similar to those provided by the public sector, which may lead to the impression that services are being duplicated. However, while there may be some competition for resources, there is rarely competition for participants. In addition, the popularity of private, for-pay recreational services (e.g. health clubs) has contributed to increased demand on the public sector to provide similar services at a lower cost.
8. The Division utilizes the help of numerous volunteers each year, including over 8000 in 1994. Volunteers are used in a variety of capacities from coaches and maintenance help to advisory roles. In addition to adult volunteers, the City's pool of volunteers also includes youth and student interns.
9. Information on recreation participation and demand is not currently compiled or analyzed in a coordinated and systematic manner which makes it difficult to identify or justify priorities.



Phalen tot lot

#### **Objective 12: Establish priorities for use and distribution of city resources.**

General fund dollars allocated to parks and recreation cover basic services and basic facility maintenance. To accommodate additional services, funding is often drawn away from basic services and maintenance. Consequently, the level of basic services and maintenance declines. Given limited resources and an expanding range of needs and demands, clear priorities must be established to ensure an adequate level of maintenance and service is sustained and resources are utilized to the fullest extent possible.

#### **Policies:**

47. Develop a process to periodically evaluate and review existing facilities and services to determine their efficiency and effectiveness and measure use and demand.
48. New acquisitions, facilities, or services should only be made after thorough review to determine need and identification of resources to provide continual operation and maintenance (see Objective 4, policy 16).
49. Encourage mutually beneficial joint use arrangements and other alternative means of delivering recreation services, both formal and informal, before provision of new facilities or programs.
50. Give priority to recreation centers located in Neighborhoods in Transition areas when distributing resources for programs, services, and facilities.
51. Develop a policy to determine the use of enterprise and revenue funds.

### **Objective 13: Increase utilization of supplemental resources.**

The availability of city resources to operate and maintain the park and recreation system is subject to economic fluctuations. Therefore, identifying a truly stable revenue source may not be feasible. Supplemental resources such as fees, grants, and partnerships, allow the Division to provide services people want which appropriated funds alone cannot support. In some cases, supplemental resources are necessary to ensure access to services for all members of our community. With restricted City resources, supplemental resources and non-traditional approaches will become increasingly important, particularly in providing neighborhood open space and recreation facilities.

#### **Policies:**

- 52.** Pursue opportunities to secure federal, state, and private resources (e.g. grants, partnerships) when and where possible to:
  - a.** Ensure free access to programs or facilities;
  - b.** Provide the organizational capacity to change service delivery, including the provision of new services;
  - c.** Build, operate and maintain facilities;
  - d.** Expand services beyond the general fund budget (e.g. specialist contracts, community education), provided that the intent of the Parks Division is to expand access or opportunities for citizens and not develop programs or expand services only to solely generate revenues or establish a special revenue fund.
- 53.** Pursue mutually beneficial opportunities to involve the corporate/business community and neighborhood organizations in partnerships providing supplemental resources (e.g. leases, sponsorships, maintenance agreements).

### **Objective 14: Improve utilization of human resources.**

Recruiting and maintaining a highly skilled and competent work force is essential to the operations of the Division. Likewise, volunteers provide vital support to staff operations and allow the City to engage in activities it might not do otherwise. Effective utilization of staff and volunteers requires continual reinvestment and commitment to recruitment, training, coordination, and recognition.



Park clean up on riverfront



**Policies:**

- 54.** Provide on-going skills training and development programs to improve and expand staff skills and capabilities.
- 55.** Establish models to build staff capacity to work independently, as teams, or in partnerships to deliver services.
- 56.** Improve the use and effectiveness of volunteers in the park system by maintaining:
  - a.** A diverse pool of skilled volunteers;
  - b.** An effective system for matching volunteers with specific tasks based on skills required, time commitment and other factors; and
  - c.** Adequate training and supervision.
- 57.** Consistently reward and recognize staff and volunteers for their contributions to the park and recreation system.

**Objective 15: Improve management of resources.**

Changes in our service population, changing lifestyles, and rapidly changing recreation trends all contribute to the increased and growing diversity of demands, and competition for use of park resources. Providing more services and facilities has been the usual response. However, there is a limit to how much we can add to the system to accommodate new and changing needs. Rather, we need to effectively manage our resources to ensure that we provide a balance of high quality recreation opportunities. This requires a thorough understanding of needs and flexibility to respond to change. It also means improving the efficiency and effectiveness of facilities, operations, and maintenance.

**Policies:**

- 58.** Improve data collection, coordination and analysis capabilities to strengthen capacity to provide adequate information for planning, evaluation and management.
- 59.** Encourage flexibility in facility use, programming, and staffing (including volunteers).
- 60.** Ensure facilities accommodate a balance of uses which reflect the diversity of community needs and demands.
- 61.** Review, and revise if necessary, plan objectives and policies on a biannual basis, when a new two year action plan is developed.



# Implementation Plan

This section includes implementation steps for achieving some of the policies outlined in the Strategy section. The two year action plan identifies the action steps the Parks and Recreation Division undertook or plans to undertake in 1996 and 1997. Each action step includes the policy number in parentheses (#) following the step.

The intent of the action plan is to provide a realistic work plan that will help focus the work of the Parks and Recreation Division over a two year period. The action plan will be updated by the staff biannually, presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review and approval, and adopted by the City Council.

## Budget Limitations

As stated in the assumptions on which this plan is based, funding for parks and recreation has decreased at regional, state and federal levels over the past decade. The City budget for parks and recreation services will not increase, and will likely decrease given the administration's commitment to a 0% increase in the City budget for the four years of Mayor Coleman's term. The current budget will need to absorb rising costs for utilities, maintenance, and scheduled salary increases for staff, while still maintaining and operating the current system of parkland and facilities. Given these budget realities, the action plan focuses on what realistically can be done in the next two years.

## Maintenance

While the City has consistently been responsive to the demands for new facilities, the resources allocated to adequately maintain and staff this system has not kept pace. Maintenance and operating costs continue to increase due to the construction of larger buildings, deterioration of aging buildings, an inadequate replacement schedule for vehicles and equipment, and acquisition of more parkland. The City has a substantial investment in its park and recreation system, and needs to budget sufficient resources for maintenance to protect that investment and avoid even higher repair and replacement costs in the future.

## Overall Goal

Provide resources to ensure all facilities, programs, and services are accessible, safe, well-maintained and adequately staffed to meet public demand.



Left to right: Como Ordway Memorial Japanese Garden, "Playdays" Como Conservatory, Crosby Park cross country skiing

# 1996-1997 Action Plan

## Action Steps For 1996

### Resource Protection

1. Complete and maintain an inventory of natural resources within ten key city parks, identifying endangered and threatened species and sensitive habitats. (1)  
RESPONSIBILITY: Support Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$5,000 for duplicating costs
2. Develop resource management plans for two park areas as pilot projects. (1)  
RESPONSIBILITY: Support Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$5,000 per management plan for staff and supply costs
3. Conduct annual review of chemical use on parkland. (1)  
RESPONSIBILITY: Support Services Section, City Council  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time
4. Work with City administrators to determine if establishing a service charge for tree maintenance is possible. (4)  
RESPONSIBILITY: Forestry, Parks Administration, Mayor  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$100,000+ in start-up costs which would eventually be repaid
5. Expand environmental awareness, education and interpretive programs in Como and Crosby Farm Parks. (1)  
RESPONSIBILITY: Environmental Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$100,000 per year
6. Review and, if needed, revise the tree protection ordinance, and identify methods of improving citizen participation in tree management issues. (4)  
RESPONSIBILITY: Forestry Unit, Mayor, City Council  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time
7. Continue to develop mutually beneficial partnerships with Northern States Power, District Energy and Public Works to improve customer service, increase productivity, and reduce duplication. (4)  
RESPONSIBILITY: Environmental Services Section, Forestry Unit  
BUDGET IMPACT: Reliable equipment and sufficient staff will be needed. Specifics depend on partnerships developed.

### Maintenance

8. Complete inventory of vehicles and equipment in the Parks and Recreation Division in preparation for improved fleet management. (Obj. 15)  
RESPONSIBILITY: Vehicle Maintenance Unit  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time
9. Complete a strategy for joint purchasing of vehicles, equipment, and vehicle rental. (Obj. 15)  
RESPONSIBILITY: Parks Administration, Citywide Fleet Maintenance Team  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$1,000,000 per year
10. Develop and implement minimum standards for recreation center maintenance citywide for each level of building. (19)  
RESPONSIBILITY: Recreation Center Maintenance Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time
11. Develop an ongoing program for scenic overlook clearance to maintain important vistas within the city on a regular cycle. (19)  
RESPONSIBILITY: Park Maintenance and Forestry Sections  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time

**12. Refurbish Showmobiles and bring up to desirable standards. (19)**

RESPONSIBILITY: Recreation Center Maintenance and Vehicle Maintenance Sections  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$15,000

**Design And Development**

**13. Provide on-street bike lanes on Mississippi River Boulevard, a designated parkway, from Minneapolis to Prior Avenue. (10/11/12/13)**

RESPONSIBILITY: Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Mayor, City Council  
BUDGET IMPACT: Unknown

**14. Complete Phalen Creek Trail and pursue connection to Riverfront trails. (11)**

RESPONSIBILITY: Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Parks and Recreation  
Commission, BAB, Mayor, City Council  
BUDGET IMPACT: Unknown

**15. Pursue trail development as Ayd Mill Road design alternatives are considered. (11)**

RESPONSIBILITY: Parks and Recreation, Public Works  
BUDGET IMPACT: Unknown

**16. Work with the Wabasha Bridge Task Force and Design Team to ensure inclusion of bicycle/pedestrian paths on new bridge. (11)**

RESPONSIBILITY: Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Parks and Recreation  
Commission, BAB, Mayor, City Council  
BUDGET IMPACT: Unknown

**17. Participate with the Department of Public Works, state Department of Natural Resources, Ramsey-Washington Watershed District, and the University of Minnesota in the preparation of plans for the Phalen/Ames Lake wetland restoration. (15)**

**Outreach, Awareness And Promotion**

**18. Work closely with the St. Paul School District to develop partnerships between Como Park Environmental Education and science teachers to develop a biology curriculum that provides opportunities for St. Paul students to utilize Como Zoo and Conservatory effectively. (52)**

RESPONSIBILITY: Parks and Recreation, St. Paul School District  
BUDGET IMPACT: May require start-up funding

**19. Seek out corporations to sponsor expanded noon-time concerts, artist-in-residence programs, and environmental education opportunities at Como Zoo and Conservatory. (21)**

RESPONSIBILITY: Parks and Recreation  
BUDGET IMPACT: May require start-up funding

**20. Explore the possibility of moving Cafesjian's Carousel Como Park. (23)**

RESPONSIBILITY: Special Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$30,000 for programming the park

**21. Design and implement programs that respond to the needs of residents of varying backgrounds by:**

- a.** Improving outreach
- b.** Improving community assessment;
- c.** Inviting residents of varying backgrounds to provide input on services; and
- d.** Identifying and contacting residents not using services to determine their interests and needs. (31)

RESPONSIBILITY: Recreation Programming Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: Unknown (spending priorities will change)

;

- 22.** Encourage community use of recreation facilities by:
- a.** Promoting the availability of recreation centers for community events;
  - b.** Establishing space use charge guidelines that encourage community use at a reasonable cost; and
  - c.** Working with neighborhood organizations in planning functions and events. (33)

RESPONSIBILITY: Recreation Programming Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: Unknown, increased revenues are expected

- 23.** Compile an inventory of all joint use agreements that Parks and Recreation has with various schools, universities, and other institutions in order to publicize the opportunities for parks users. Furthermore, in light of recent facility expansions by the St. Paul School District, Parks and Recreation needs to clarify the legal status of those documents. (34)

RESPONSIBILITY: Recreation Programming Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: Unknown

## **Services And Programs**

- 24.** Develop and implement Division security/emergency plans for key Division facilities. (28)

RESPONSIBILITY: Parks Security, Parks and Recreation facility managers  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time

- 25.** Involve the community in a systematic way in setting program and service-related priorities for selected programs. (41)

RESPONSIBILITY: Recreation Programming Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: Requires \$4100 start-up funding

- 26.** Schedule programs and services at times that respond to priorities identified by the community. (41)

RESPONSIBILITY: Recreation Programming Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: Unknown (pending priorities will change)

- 27.** Use neighborhood service delivery teams to improve programs and services. (55)

RESPONSIBILITY: Recreation Programming Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: Unknown (pending priorities will change)

- 28.** Sponsor additional downtown and riverfront special events as opportunities arise. (46)

RESPONSIBILITY: Special Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: Potential new revenue

- 29.** Develop a strategy to provide funding for special events produced by the Parks and Recreation Division. (53)

RESPONSIBILITY: Special Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$20,000 in sponsorship revenue

- 30.** Develop and adopt a standardized rate structure for park permits. (36)

RESPONSIBILITY: Parks Administration, Operations and Support Services Sections  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time

- 31.** Refine the park permit system and determine the feasibility of a Division-wide all-type permit system with "one stop shopping". (55)

RESPONSIBILITY: Parks Administration, Park Maintenance Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$40,000

## **Information And Data Management**

- 32.** Develop mechanisms for routine feedback for selected programs. (47)

RESPONSIBILITY: Support Services Section and Activity Managers  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$5,000 for postage and printing

- 33.** Secure funds for citywide survey (10 year anniversary, last done in 1986). (47)

RESPONSIBILITY: Parks and Recreation  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$40,000

- 34.** Secure space, equipment and money for salaries to expand use of interns. (56)

RESPONSIBILITY: Parks and Recreation  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$25,000

## **Staffing**

- 35.** Develop customer service team at Como Zoo and Conservatory. (58)

RESPONSIBILITY: Environmental Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: May require start-up funding

- 36.** Create staff development team and plan for Como Zoo and Conservatory to ensure staff effectiveness and efficiency. (58)

RESPONSIBILITY: Environmental Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$10,000 for specific training sessions

- 37.** Implement elements of an affirmative action strategy for recruitment, training and retention of staff. (45)

RESPONSIBILITY: Support Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: May require start-up funding for outreach and training

- 38.** Establish models that build staff capacity to work independently. Complete the neighborhood service delivery team staffing model. (55)

RESPONSIBILITY: Recreation Programming Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$20,000 for staff development

## **Communications And Coordination**

- 39.** Develop grant proposals for funding the environmental education program. (52)

RESPONSIBILITY: Environmental Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: Requires funding for staff and programming

- 40.** Develop grant proposals for funding the Como Conservatory's Artist-in-Residence program. (52)

RESPONSIBILITY: Environmental Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: Requires funding for artist, programming, and facilities

- 41.** Work closely with the Police Department to evaluate Park Ranger services provided since transfer in 1995. (29/30)

- a. Develop brochure with Police explaining how Park Ranger services are provided.
- b. Document and evaluate effectiveness of Park Watch Program between Parks and Police for one season (1995).
- c. Work closely with Police teams to identify problem areas and develop a response process.

RESPONSIBILITY: Park and Recreation Managers, Support Services Section, Police Department  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time and printing costs

- 42.** Work with neighborhood groups (surveys, meetings, focus groups) to identify security concerns within the Park system. (29/30)

RESPONSIBILITY: Parks and Recreation Managers, Support Services Section, Police Department  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time



- 43.** Develop and distribute Park Watch flyers to Division facilities and community groups. (30)
- RESPONSIBILITY: Support Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$5,000 for information development and printing
- 44.** Review and improve strategies for notifying and involving constituents in setting balanced priorities for planning, development, programming, maintenance, use of facilities, and other park and recreation-related matters. (42)
- RESPONSIBILITY: Support Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: Unknown

## Action Steps For 1997

### Resource Protection

- 1.** Determine need for computerized tree inventory. (1/4/58)
- RESPONSIBILITY: Forestry Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$7,500 for intern, \$12,000 computer start-up costs
- 2.** Develop resource management plans for four parks. (1)
- RESPONSIBILITY: Environmental Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$5,000 per management plan for staff and supply costs
- 3.** Conduct annual review of chemical use on parkland. (1)
- RESPONSIBILITY: Environmental Services Section, City Council  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time
- 4.** Contact DNR to compare DNR's biotic inventory program/county biological survey and the City's natural resources inventories, and revise inventories if needed. (2)
- RESPONSIBILITY: Environmental Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time and \$10,000 for possible interns

### DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

- 5.** In the Regional Parks and Open Space System, the City will: (14)
- a.** Seek funding for completion of plans and development projects (CIB, Metro Parks, LCMR, ISTE, other);
- b.** Identify/prioritize trail segments, connections, etc.
- RESPONSIBILITY: Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Parks and Recreation Commission, BAB, Mayor, City Council  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time
- 6.** Implement local parks and recreation priorities: (15)
- a.** Seek funding to complete construction of community recreation centers at North Dale and Battle Creek.
- b.** Develop plan and seek funding for a multi-use sports/recreation facility.
- RESPONSIBILITY: Parks and Recreation, Mayor, City Council  
BUDGET IMPACT: As available
- 7.** Work with neighboring municipalities, counties, MnDOT, NSP and Metropolitan Council to coordinate trail planning. (11)
- RESPONSIBILITY: Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Parks and Recreation Commission, BAB, Mayor, City Council  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time

### OUTREACH, AWARENESS, AND PROMOTION

- 8.** Secure resources to coordinate public information and marketing for Division programs. (30/31/32)

RESPONSIBILITY: Support Services Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$50,000

#### **SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

- 9.** Evaluate programs and services at Neighborhoods in Transition facilities to determine the effectiveness in helping stabilize the community. (58)

RESPONSIBILITY: Recreation Programming Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$2000 for the evaluation

- 10.** Develop a volunteer base at selected recreation centers so that programs, services, and facility hours can be augmented. (56/59)

RESPONSIBILITY: Recreation Programming Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$2000 for volunteer training

#### **INFORMATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT**

- 11.** Train key staff in marketing facilities and programs. (40)

RESPONSIBILITY: Support Services Section and Managers  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$5,000

- 12.** Develop an accurate inventory of all Saint Paul Parks and Recreation land with location, legal description, acreage, and date of acquisition. (58)

RESPONSIBILITY: Parks Administration, Park Maintenance Section, Intern  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$5,000

#### **STAFFING**

- 13.** Provide improved training for all levels of Operations staff - both mandated and elective training. (54)

RESPONSIBILITY: Operations Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: \$10,000

#### **MAINTENANCE**

- 14.** Review feasibility of converting the Small Engine Repair Unit to an enterprise fund. (Obj. 12)

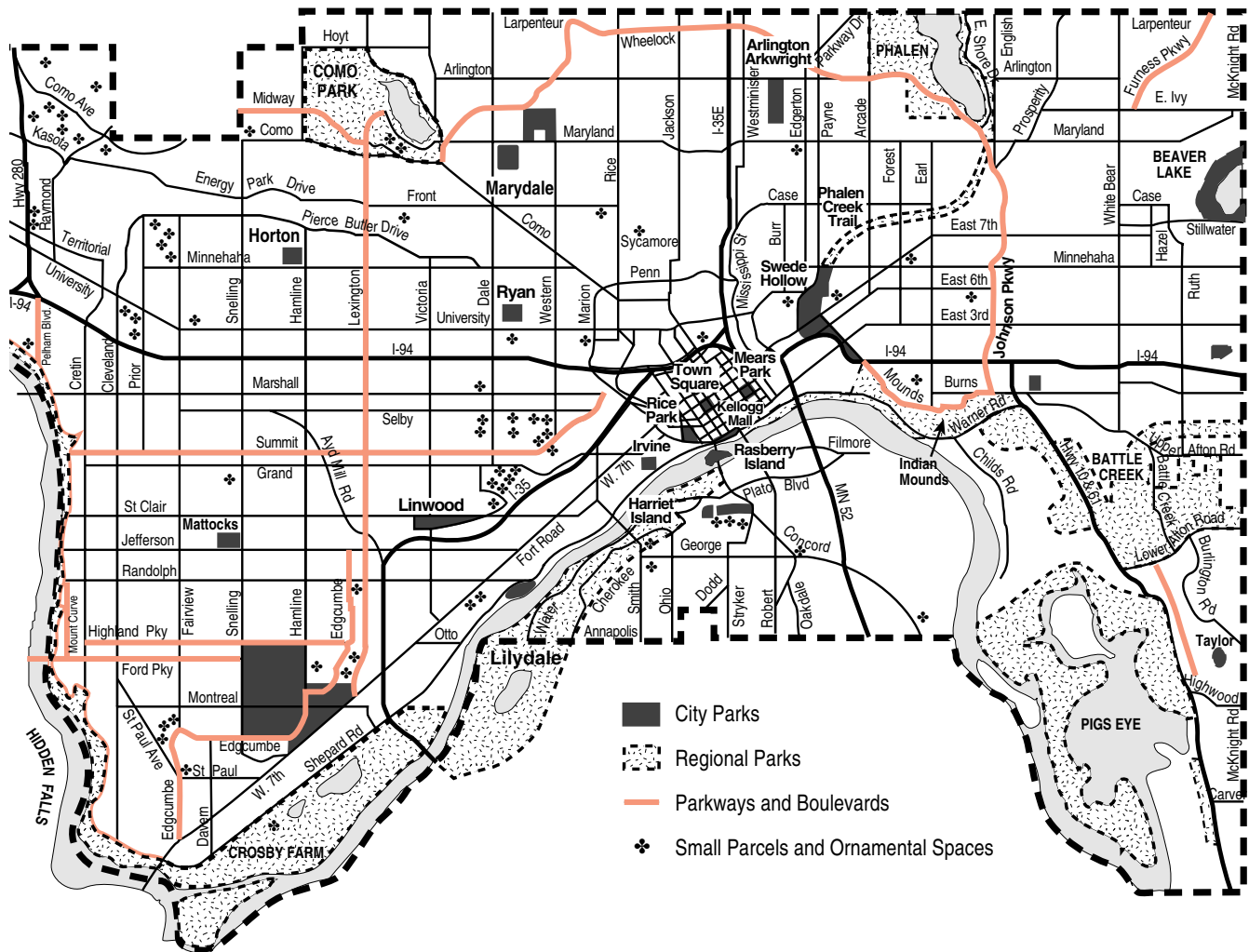
RESPONSIBILITY: Parks Administration, Vehicle Maintenance and Park Maintenance Sections  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time and costs to be determined

- 15.** Identify areas and implement reduced mowing areas throughout the Parks system. (Obj. 12)

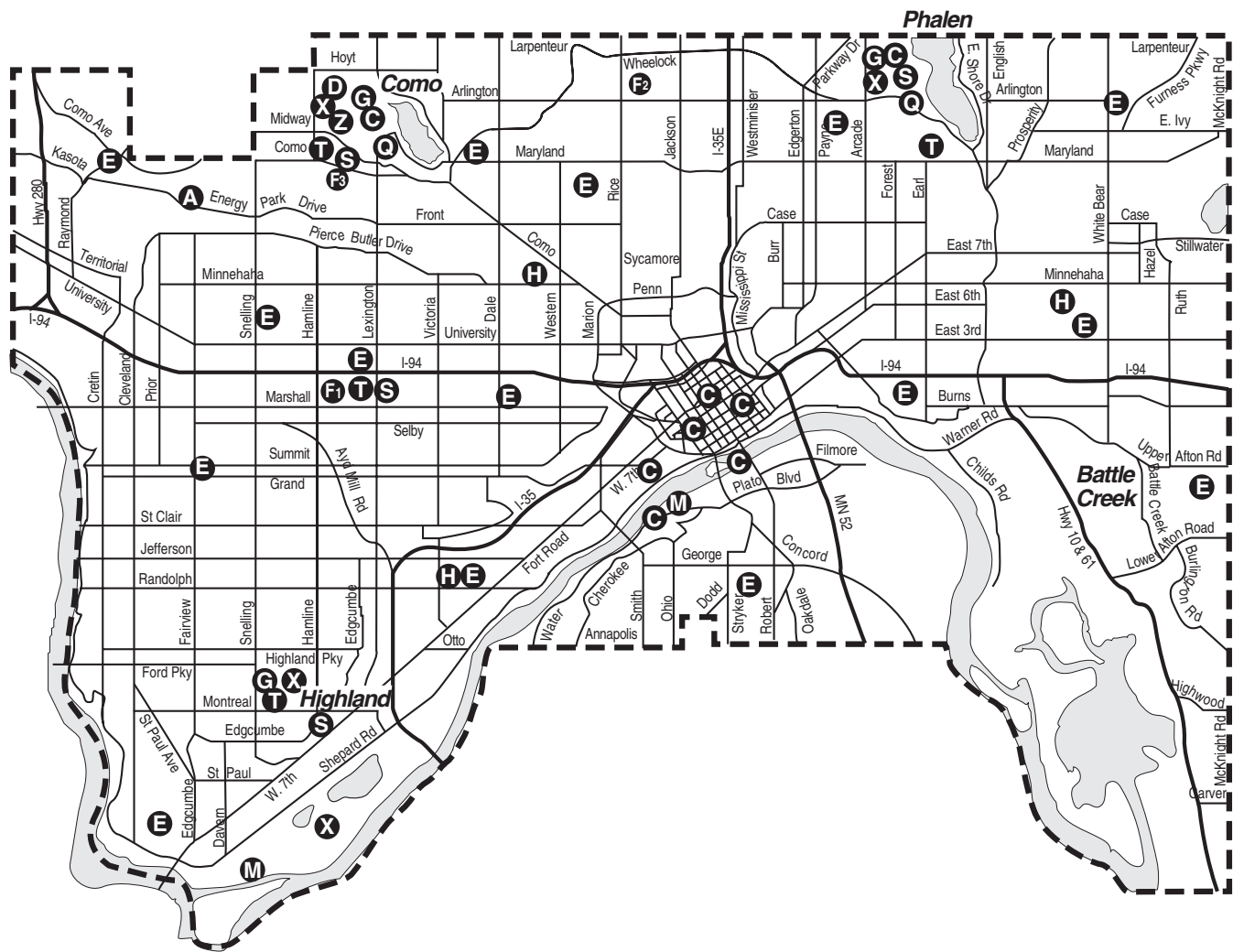
RESPONSIBILITY: Parks Administration, Operations Section  
BUDGET IMPACT: Current staff time



## CITY PARKS AND PARKWAYS



## SPECIALIZED RECREATION FACILITIES



**A** BASEBALL/SOFTBALL STADIUM  
Midway Stadium

**C** CONCERTS  
Como Lakeside Pavilion  
Harriet Island  
Mears Park  
Phalen Amphitheatre  
Raspberry Island  
Rice Park  
Town Square  
Irvine Park

**D** DOWNHILL SKIING  
Como

**E** COMMUNITY EDUCATION/ RECREATION (office location)

**F** ATHLETIC FIELD COMPLEXES  
F1 Dunning  
F2 Rice/Arlington  
F3 McMurray

**G** GOLF  
Highland (9 and 18-hole)  
Como/Phalen

**H** HORSESHOES  
Como and Blair Avenues  
Palace  
Eastview

**M** MARINA  
Harriet Island  
Watgate

**Q** AQUATIC ACTIVITIES  
Phalen Lakeside Activity Center  
(sailing, canoeing, rowing)  
Como Lakeside (rentals)

**S** SWIMMING  
Outdoor Pools  
Como/Highland  
Beach/Phalen  
Indoor/Oxford

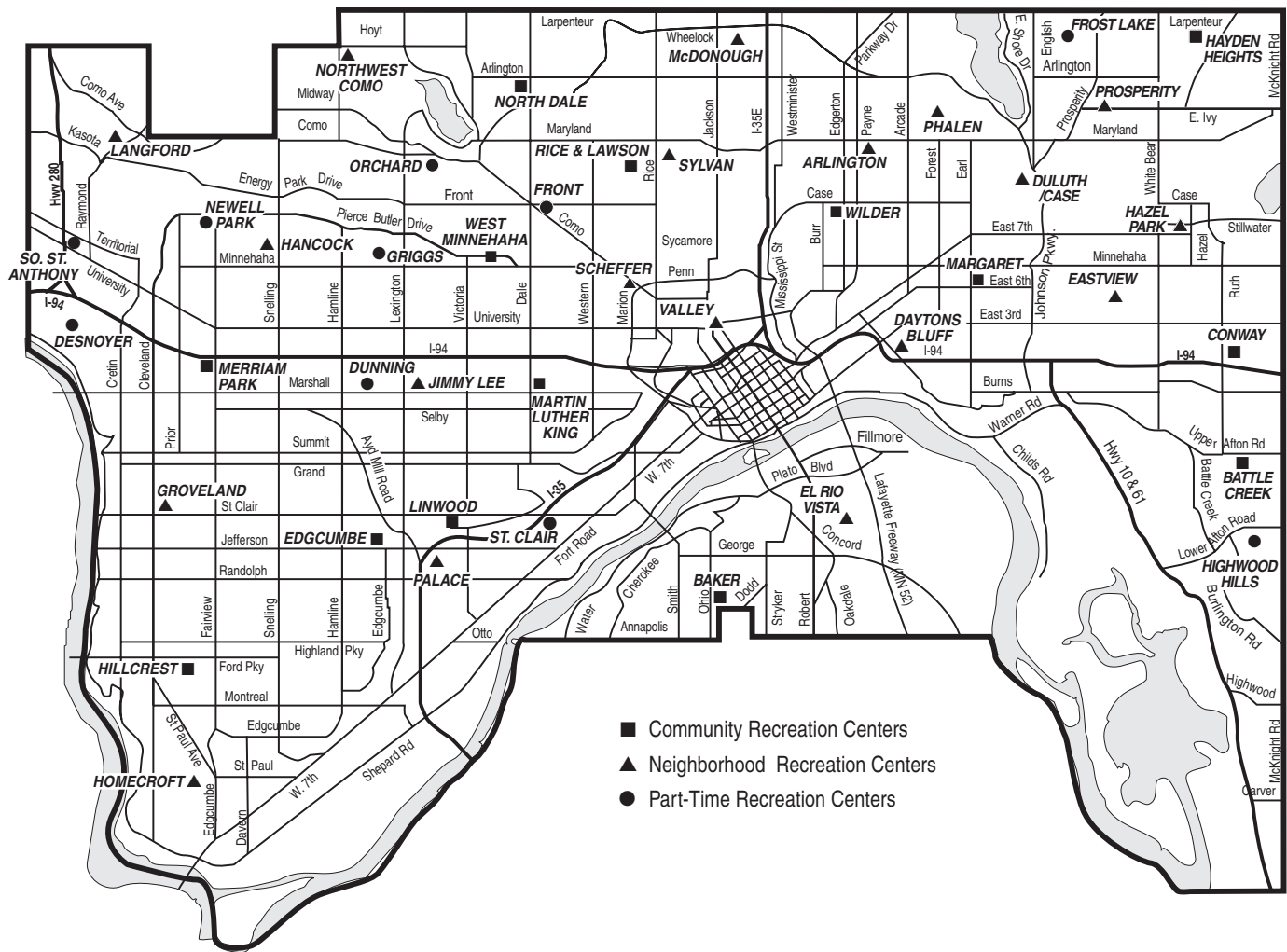
**T** OUTDOOR TENNIS COMPLEXES  
Como Highland  
Dunning Phalen

**X** CROSS COUNTRY SKIING  
Hidden Falls/Crosby Farm  
Highland/Phalen/Como

**Z** COMO ZOO AND CONSERVATORY  
(regional special recreational feature)



## CITY RECREATION CENTER LOCATIONS

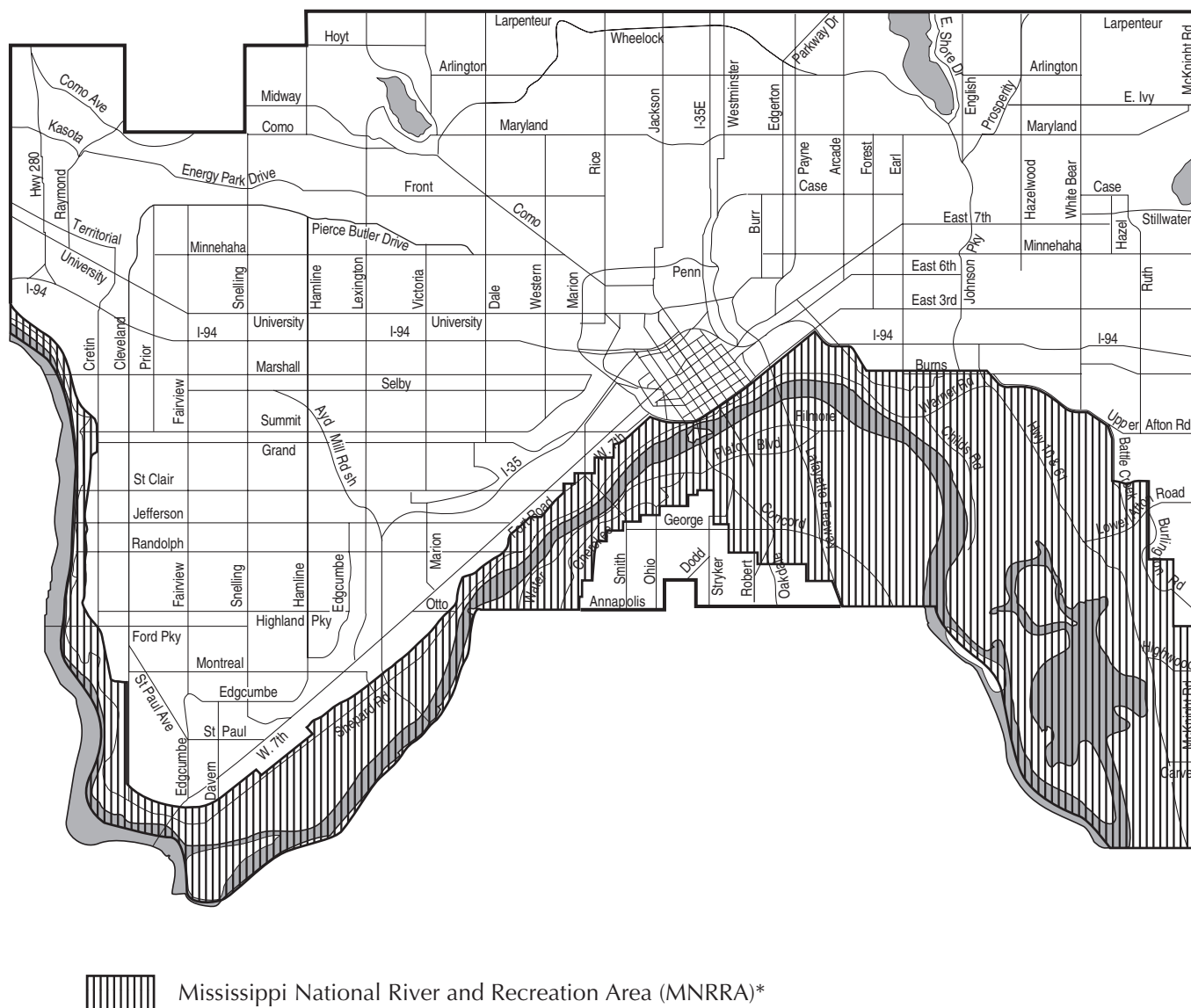


CENTER	ADDRESS	PHONE	INDOOR FACILITIES										OUTDOOR FACILITIES									
			Aerobic Room	Meeting Room	Kitchen	Game Room	Craft Room	Multi-Purpose	Gym	Warming Room	Weight Room	Raquetball Court	Senior Lounge	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Tot Lot	Softball Field	Baseball Field	Horseshoe Pit	Volleyball Court	Boogie Ball Court	Soccer Field
Arlington	665 E. Rose	298-5701	1	1				S	1						1	1						
Baker	209 W. Page	292-7244	2	2	1	1	1	L	1					2	1	1	2	1	3			
Battle Creek	2076 Upper Alton	298-5737	1	1				S	1					2	1	1	4	1				2
Conway	2090 Conway	298-5742	1	1	1	1	1	L	1	1				2	1/2	1	3	1				
Dayton's Bluff	790 Conway	298-5703	1	1				S	1					2	1/2	1	3	1				
Desnoyer *	525 Pelham	298-5753	1	1					1					1	1/2	1	2					
Duluth & Case	1020 Duluth	298-5709		1				M	1					2	1/2	1	6	2				
Dunning	1221 Marshall	298-5754							1													
Eastview	608 Kennard	298-5710	1	1		1		M	1					2		1	3	1	3			
Edgumbe	320 S. Griggs	298-5772	1	1		1	1	L	1	1	2			4	1/2	1	2	1				
El Rio Vista	179 E. Robie	298-5659			1	1		L	1	1				2	1	1	2	1				
Front *	485 Stinson	298-5809	1	1				S	1					1	1/2	1	2	1				
Frost Lake	1518 E. Idaho	298-5712	1	1	1			M	1						1	1	3	1				
Griggs *	1188 Hubbard	298-5755							1					1	1	1	1	1				
Groveland	2045 St. Clair	298-5775		1		1		L	1					2	1	1	1	1				
Hancock	1610 Hubbard	298-4393	1	1	1	1	1	L	1	1					1/2	1	1	1				1
Hayden Heights	1965 E. Hoyt	298-5716	1	1	1			L	2					2	1	1	3	1				
Hazel Park	919 N. Hazel	298-5739	1	1				S	1					2	1	1	3	1				2
Highwood Hills *	2188 Londin Ln.	298-5749	1	1	1		1	L	1					2		2	2					
Hillcrest	1978 Ford Pkwy.	298-5779	3	1		1	1	L	1	1				1		1	2	1				
Homecroft	1845 Sheridan	298-5794	1	1	1			L	1					2	1	1	2		2			
Jimmy Lee	1063 Iglehart	298-5760	1	1	1			L	1						1	1	2	1				
Langford	30 Langford Park	298-5765	1	1	1			M	1					2	1	1	2		3			
Linwood	860 St. Clair	298-5660	1	3	1		1	L	1	1		1										
Margaret	1109 Margaret	298-5719		1	1	1		L	1	1				1		1	2	1				
Martin Luther King	270 N. Kent	298-5661		1				L	1	1				2	1/2	1						
McDonough	1544 Timberlake	298-5810	2	1		1		L	1								2		2			1
Merriam Park	2000 St. Anthony	298-5766				1	1	L	1					2		1	1	1				
North Dale	1414 N. St. Albans	298-5812		1				M	1					2	1	1	3	1				
Northwest Como	1557 Huron	298-5813	1	1				L	1						1/2	1	2					
Orchard	875 Orchard	298-5816	1	1				M	1	1				1		1	1	1	2	1		
Palace	781 Palace	298-5677	1	1	1	1	1	L	1	1						1	3	1	8			
Phalen	1000 E. Wheelock	298-5721	1	1				S	1						1/2	1	3	2				
Prosperity	1371 Kennard	298-5722	1	1		1	1	M	1					2	1	1	3	1	2		2	2
Rice & Lawson	1021 Marion	298-5819	1	1	1			L	1					3	1	1	5	1				
St. Clair *	265 Oneida	298-5730						S	1					2	1	1	2					
Scheffer	237 Thomas	298-5820	1	1				S	1						1	1	2	1	13			
So. St. Anthony *	890 Cromwell	298-5770	1	1				L	1					2		2	2	1	2			
Sylvan	77 W. Rose	298-5821	1	1				S	1					1		1	2	1				
Valley	690 Jackson	298-5687	1	1		1	1	M	1							1	3			1		
West Minnehaha	685 W. Minnehaha	298-5823	1	1	1	1		L	1	1				2	1	1	4	1	2			
Wilder	958 Jessie	298-5727	2	1		1	1	M	1	1				1	1	1	2		2			

\* Part-Time Recreation Center

S - Small  
M - Medium  
L - Large

## MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA



\* This is also the Mississippi Critical Area as defined by the State of Minnesota. The MNRR Comprehensive Management Plan and state Critical Area Standards apply in this area. The MNRR area is also the same as the City of Saint Paul's River Corridor Zoning Overlay District. Detailed maps of this area can be found in the City's Zoning Code.

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